

REMARKS

Claims 8, 9, and 11-26 were pending in the application. Claims 8-10, 14-18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Goodman et al. (US 7,130,921 B2). Claims 11, 12, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman in view of Dutta et al. (US 2003/0050966 A1). Claims 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman in view of Bowman (US 2003/0208621). Claim 26 is subject to a restriction requirement.

Claim 26 is cancelled per Examiner's restriction requirement. Claims 8, 9, and 11-25 are presented for examination.

Restriction Requirement

Claim 26 had been cancelled per the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Response to rejections under 35 USC 102(e):

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, a reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present (MPEP 706.02(a) IV). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as recited in the claim, and the elements must be arranged as required by the claim (MPEP §2131).

Goodman (col. 7, line 67 - col. 8, line 2): "The search request is then communicated to clients having an IP address included in its seed list 434, [the] seed list 434 having IP addresses received from server 102." These lines teach that the seed list (of other client addresses) is received from a server. The server is a central component, as shown in FIG 1 element 102, not a distributed functionality. Its description "P2P server" does not make Goodman a pure P2P network without a central server.

In contrast, Applicants' clients include a search function that ascertains network addresses of other communication components (claims 8 and 16). Goodman's clients (106-120, FIG 1) do not have this functionality. Goodman's clients can perform P2P searches for data and service resources on other clients, but cannot compile network address lists of other clients as in Applicants' invention. Instead, Goodman's central server 102 performs network address searching, compilation, and maintenance. Thus, Goodman provides a hybrid network architecture that is not purely centralized, and is not purely P2P. The excerpts below clearly teach away from pure P2P architectures, thus teaching away from Applicants' invention.

Goodman col. 2, lines 36-44: "A serious problem in Gnutella-based systems is their reputation for being unreliable. Lacking a central server that keeps track of which client is connected, and which is not, there is no way for a client to know if all its neighbors are alive and connected. This leads to less than reliable performance."

Goodman col. 4, lines 50-51: "Reduced Network Activity--Unlike a pure P2P network, clients need not ping the other clients continuously. Instead, a client maintains awareness of other connected clients by downloading the list of IP addresses from the server periodically."

Applicants' system, in contrast, uses a distributed P2P architecture without centralized network address searching, compilation, and maintenance. Instead, multiple clients have these address functionalities. Applicants provide a P2P architecture without a central address server that overcomes the above disadvantages. The above lines of Goodman make it clear that he did not recognize the possibility of this P2P solution as provided by Applicants. Therefore this solution is not only novel but unobvious with respect to Goodman.

Examiner notes that each of Goodman's clients maintains a database of resources that it offers for sharing. These are resources such as engineering, marketing, and managerial resources (col. 6, lines 25-29). His central server maintains a master network address list; selects parts of this list to send to each client as a "seed list", thus determining a network routing priority; and updates the seed lists to the clients periodically. If the central server fails, the network fails.

Goodman col. 4 lines 39-41: "The server maintains a current list of connected clients by maintaining a list of clients, and pinging each client periodically."

Examiner cites the following lines of Goodman:

Goodman col. 4, lines 57-60: "Pure P2P Protocol Based--Like most of the packet communications, search and search response is accomplished among clients using a protocol similar to a pure P2P protocol."

However, this refers to searching for resources, which is a normal client functionality, not searching for network addresses, which is done by Goodman in a central address server. This is clearly different than the distributed client search functionality that ascertains network addresses by multiple clients as recited in Applicants' independent claims 8 and 16.

Goodman col. 4, lines 61-65: This approach enables use of the central server concept within a P2P environment that results in a highly enhanced P2P resource sharing system.

Response to rejections under 35 USC 103(e):

The proposed addition of server state information of Dutta and/or usage cost information of Bowman to the teachings of Goodman does not address the above deficiency in Goodman.

Conclusion

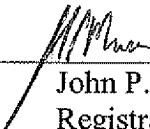
Goodman does not teach multiple clients with a network address search functionality that ascertains network addresses of other communication components. This feature is recited in Applicants' independent claims 8 and 16. Neither Dutta nor Bowman address this deficiency. Thus, Goodman alone and in the proposed combinations lacks a claimed feature of the present invention. Furthermore, the whole purpose of Goodman is to provide a central network address server 102 in a P2P network (abstract). He strongly teaches away from a pure distributed P2P network, in which clients ascertain the network addresses. Accordingly, the prior art does not support the 35 USC 102 or 103 rejections. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8, 9, and 11-25, and allowance of the application.

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The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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